

Day. I therefore want to take this opportunity to recognize the 45,000 osteopathic physicians (D.O.s) across the country for their contributions to the American healthcare system. For more than a century, D.O.s have made a difference in the lives and health of Americans everywhere. They have treated presidents and Olympic athletes. They have helped to keep children well and have contributed to the fight against AIDS. Today, members of the osteopathic medical profession serve as U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, the chief medical officer for the U.S. Coast Guard, and the Surgeon General of the U.S. Army.

As fully licensed physicians able to prescribe medication and perform surgery, D.O.s are committed to serving the health needs of rural and underserved communities. They make up 15 percent of the total physician population in towns of 10,000 or less. In addition, 64 percent of D.O.s practice in the primary care areas of medicine, fulfilling a need for more primary care physicians in an era marked by the growth of managed care. Their contributions have been particularly important in rural states like Maine.

More than 100 million patient visits are made each year to D.O.s. D.O.s approach their patients as "whole people." They don't just treat a specific illness or injury. D.O.s take into account home and work environments, as well as lifestyle, when assessing overall health. This approach provides Americans with high quality healthcare—patients seen as people, not just an illness or injury.

From the state-of-the-art healthcare facility in a major city to a clinic in a rural Maine community, D.O.s continue to practice the kind of medicine that Andrew Taylor Still envisioned over 100 years ago when he founded the profession.

It was my pleasure to meet today with two representatives of the osteopathic medical profession visiting our Capitol from Maine. The University of New England, College of Osteopathic Medicine (UNECOM), in Biddeford, is the only medical school in my home state. To the more than 400 osteopathic physicians in Maine, the approximately 1,100 graduates of UNECOM, and the 45,000 D.O.s represented by the American Osteopathic Association—congratulations on your contributions to the good health of the American people. I look forward to working with you to further our mutual goal of improving our nation's health care.●

MR. AND MRS. ROBERT VANMETER'S 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Robert VanMeter, who on April 22, 2000, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

The couple was married at a simple ceremony on a Friday evening by a clergyman named Grover W. Cleveland. Since that evening, the two have shared the highs and lows of life together, lending support and comfort to the other whenever there has been need.

Mr. Robert VanMeter served in the 82d Airborne in Italy. He loved his job, and was particularly fond of taking pictures of his jumps. Mrs. JoAnn VanMeter stayed at home, raising their four children. She baked everything from hamburger buns to apple pie. The children never knew what "store-bought" bread and pastries were until they were teenagers and Mrs. VanMeter returned to work.

Thirty-nine years ago, Mr. VanMeter completed the house that the couple lives in to this day. It took him two years to build, in part because of his refusal to allow anyone to help him with any part of the process, including the electrical and plumbing.

Mr. and Mrs. VanMeter have five grandchildren, ages 12-25. As they did their own children, they continue to show a patience and loyalty to them. They instill into their grandchildren the same principles they passed to their children: hard work, patience, and a willingness to try new things.

Mr. President, on this special occasion, I congratulate Mr. and Mrs. VanMeter. On behalf of the entire United States Senate, I wish them a happy 50th wedding anniversary, and best of luck in the future.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:36 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2328. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Clean Lakes Program.

H.R. 2884. An act to extend energy conservation programs under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act through fiscal year 2003.

H.R. 3039. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to assist in the

restoration of the Chesapeake Bay, and for other purposes.

#### ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION AND BILL SIGNED

At 12:36 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled joint resolution and bill:

S.J. Res. 43. A joint resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the President of the United States should encourage free and fair elections and respect for democracy in Peru.

H.R. 1658. An act to provide a more just and uniform procedure for Federal civil forfeitures, and for other purposes.

The enrolled joint resolution bill was signed subsequently by the President Pro Tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

At 1:30 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 290) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2001, revising the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal Year 2000, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2005.

#### MEASURE REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2328. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Clean Lakes Program; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1838. An act to assist in the enhancement of the security of Taiwan, and for other purposes.

The following bills were read the first and second times, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2884. An act to extend energy conservation programs under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act through fiscal year 2003.

H.R. 3039. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to assist in the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay, and for other purposes.

#### ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on April 13, 2000, he had presented to the President of the United States, that the following enrolled joint resolution: